



For God and
Country

The Bird Call

American Legion—Chester Bird Post 523 Newsletter
200 Lilac drive, Golden Valley MN, 55422 (763-377-4252)
July / August 2019



The Commander's Corner By Commander Craig Hartman

Its been a busy two months at the Bird with lots of effort from our Legion and SAL Comrades and some welcome news. The welcome news being that the Minnesota Gambling Control Board has approved our request to exceed the 2019 A22 budget to replace all of the floor tile in our dining area and the broken room divider for our small conference room, we hope to start on the project soon and are looking forward to the new look.

Speaking of new looks on May 25th we "Post & SAL members" took out seventeen trees that had overgrown the Post Grounds. Hidden behind a number of juniper trees on the side of the building was a plaque in honor of Marvin Danielson 6-7-21 to 10-4-69 , whose family donated the flag poles in 1969 that grace our building. We plan to grind out the stumps and re-landscape the area.



Our Memorial Day Observance was held inside.
The rifles however were shot outside.

Operations employee Danny Morris completed Grandmas Marathon in 4h.26 min. Way to go Danny!
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The President's Corner By Sherri Wicks

Hope all are enjoying the Minnesota weather.

Auxiliary will not be serving any Friday night dinners during the Summer months. We would like to thank you for your support. We look forward to starting up again in the Fall.

We will still be serving breakfast the 4th Sunday each month, unless a Holiday weekend, the only exception will be for the Car/Bike Show. This will be our September Breakfast.

****Breakfast 9:00-1:00 or slow \$7.00, Kids under 10 \$3.00**

All you can Pancakes or French Toast, served w/scrambled eggs & 2 sausage links, Biscuits n Gravy w/scrambled eggs \$7.00, not all you can eat. July 28th, August 25th, September 15th, October 27th and December 8th will be Christmas breakfast with Santa.

****Annual Car/Motorcycle Show date change:**
Sunday September 15th, 2019 9-4:30.

****The White Sidewalls will be our entertainment. They will play between 12:00-4:00 outside, weather permitting.**

We will have a Fender guitar to raffle signed by the band members \$10.00 each ticket. Silent Auction, Horseshoe Tournament (pre-register), Breakfast will be served 8:30-11:00, Grilled items served outside 11:00-4:00, Raffles!! Come on down and enjoy a fun filled day! Proceeds benefit Veteran Causes.

Glenwood Avenue Reunion will be September 15th also.

Membership Drive—9/15/19-Pay your dues or sign up early.

A HUGE Thank You to all of the Volunteers, without you we wouldn't have the success that we do. Please know you are greatly appreciated.

Old & New members, we encourage all to attend the meetings. Until we meet again on September 10th. You will receive emails for events to volunteer!

Auxiliary Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday, each month at 6:30. Come in early for a light dinner before meeting starting at 5:30, donations encouraged.

A great BIG thank you to all of our Military men and women, let's keep them all in our prayers.

TEAM-Together Everyone Achieves More.

Make your day incredible!
Auxiliary President
Sherri Wicks

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

The American Legion Post ▪ The Auxiliary ▪ The Sons Off The American Legion ▪ The American Legion Riders

**Service Officer
By Craig Hartman**

American Legion Eligibility

This article authored by National Commander Brett P. Reistad was copied from the June 2019 American Legion magazine. It warrants close examination and support as there are many thousands of Military Veterans who have been denied the right to join The American Legion because they did not serve during a period of nationally recognized military conflict.

When is a war a war? When bullets, bombs, missiles or weapons of mass destruction are aimed at American service members. Size, scope, media coverage - none of it matters when someone is trying to kill you.

The fact is the United States has been at war since Dec. 7, 1941. Over 1,600 American service members have been killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not recognized or declared by the U.S. government as times of war. Now here's the rub. The American Legion was chartered by Congress as a "wartime Veterans organization." At the time of our founding in 1919, World War I - then known as the "Great War" - was supposed to be the "war to end all wars." As we all know, it wasn't. For too long, veterans have wondered why only those who served during designated wartime eras could join The American Legion. We mean it when we answer, "It takes an act of Congress." On Feb. 14, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (aka the LEGION Act), S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, has been introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va. The LEGION Act would open The American Legion's membership eligibility dates from Dec. 7, 1941, to a time as yet determined by the U.S. government that we are not at war. If signed into law, this bill would fulfill Resolution No.1, passed unanimously by the Legion's National Executive Committee last October in Indianapolis. Should Congress take action to expand our organization's charter, hundreds of thousands more veterans would have access to American Legion programs and benefits for which they are currently not eligible. Again, the LEGION Act recognizes that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war since World War II. Whether a veteran served during the Cold War or a hot one, he or she took the same oath to support and defend our Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. This legislation is a great way to say "thank you." We believe that all veterans who served honorably on federal orders since Dec. 7, 1941, have earned the right to be welcomed into the ranks of The American Legion. They have earned the right to enjoy the camaraderie and privilege of belonging to the nation's most influential and active Veterans service organization. They have earned the right to call themselves Legionnaires.

The American Legion's founders did not distinguish between those who fought in the trenches of Europe and those stationed in the United States or at sea. They acknowledged that service members went where the government sent them and that they were all part of the war effort. Encourage your representatives and senators to support the LEGION Act, because all veterans deserve recognition for the risks they faced while in uniform, regardless of when and where they served. Let's give them the opportunity to join their brothers and sisters in arms in The American Legion.

Craig Hartman, Service Officer

**Auxiliary Membership
By Doris Rindahl**

Greetings Auxiliary Ladies,

Our current count for paid up membership is 88. There will be an early sign up at the annual car show. Please check Sherri's column for the date and time. Have a great summer see you at the Car Show and at our first meeting on September, 10th.

The Auxiliary would like to welcome Amber Raitz as a new member. Welcome.

Please remember our service personal that serve to keep us free.

Doris Rindahl Membership

**1st Vice
By Mike Hrdlicka**

July is here Legionnaires! It is a time to celebrate the birthday of our Nation! 243 Years after the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broad sides, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

It is also the month to renew your Legion Membership if you have not done so. We have 23 Members that have not renewed. We need you to get your dues in or renew online.

Of particular interest to some Veterans is the bill in Congress to include in Full Membership all Veterans that have served. No exclusions. We hope it will pass and all Veterans will be eligible for the Membership they deserve!

Have a safe and wonderful summer. When you encounter a Brother or Sister Veteran, brighten their day!! Thank them for serving and for being part of a proud and powerful Group.

Mike Hrdlicka, First Vice

Chaplain By Mark Kelm

Suicide Prevention

Sometimes, life's challenges can feel overwhelming, like there's no way things can get better. When things feel unbearable, or if you're having thoughts of ending your life, **support is available**. VA offers a number of programs and resources for Veterans and their loved ones, friends, and health care providers.

If you are a Veteran in crisis — or you're concerned about one — free, confidential support is available 24/7. Call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, send a text message to **838255**, or chat online by visiting <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>.

Suicide Is Preventable

Suicide is a national health concern that affects all Americans, whether or not they have served in the military. VA believes that everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide. That's why we are working with community partners across the country — including faith communities, employers, schools, and health care organizations — to prevent suicide among **all** Veterans, including those who may never come to VA for care.

S.A.V.E. Online Suicide Prevention Training

VA recently launched the S.A.V.E. online suicide prevention training video in collaboration with PsychArmor Institute, a national nonprofit providing online education and support to those who work with, live with, or care for Service members, Veterans, and military and Veteran families. S.A.V.E. — which stands for "Signs," "Ask," "Validate," and "Encourage" and "Expedite" — offers simple steps that anyone can take when talking with Veterans who are at risk for suicide. S.A.V.E. can be viewed by visiting <https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>

Know the Warning Signs

Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness; feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug misuse, carelessly handling weapons, etc.

If you or the Veteran in your life is feeling depressed, anxious, hopeless, or as if life has no purpose, but is not in immediate danger, we encourage you to:

- Visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) to learn about support that is available to you.
- Use our resource locator at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/local-resources> to discover the suicide prevention resources in your area, including VA medical centers and Suicide Prevention Coordinators.

Chaplain By Mark Kelm (Continued)

- Visit [MakeTheConnection.net](https://www.maketheconnection.net) to hear from Veterans and their family members who have coped with challenges like yours.

If you are a Veteran or you know a Veteran who is showing any of these signs, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat), or text to 838255 today.

Prayer for Suicide Prevention (Author Unknown)

God our Creator, you give breath to each person you made. You treasure the gifts of each unique person.

But when life becomes a burden rather than a gift,

God of life, hold us.

When darkness strangles the will to live, when days become endless nights,

God of light, shine on us.

When no one seems to understand, when we walk and wait alone,

God of love, embrace us with your presence.

Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is shame, give value and worth; where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment; where there is suffering in mind and body, bring healing.

God of hope, hear our prayer for life.



2nd Vice By Mark Kelm

While sitting at the VA waiting for an appointment, a volunteer struck up an exchange with me. They had seen me pass by during previous visits and thought they would take this opportunity to get to know me. We had a fantastic conversation that brightened my day. It occurred to me that the great members and guests of Chester Bird would make outstanding VA volunteers. This is one more way that we can reach out into the community and help those in need.

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

The American Legion has supported and actively participated in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program since it began in 1946. Today, nearly 7,000 volunteers serve 900,000 hours annually at various VA medical centers. Get started at <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/>.

What's Your Why?

WHY would you want to be a VAVS Volunteer? One of the most important benefits of volunteering is the opportunity to explore and fulfill your passions. For many VAVS volunteers, that passion is serving Veterans. For others, their "why" is the chance to explore a new career field. For some, they like feeling like they are investing in an activity that is making a difference in their community.

To volunteer at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, please visit <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/>

The Commander's Corner (continued)
By Craig Hartman

SAL Commander
By Denny Arons

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Our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on June 14th.

Our Chester Bird 15AA BSM Baseball Team took first place in the Wayzata Classic Tournament.

And of course we hosted the 76th annual Golden Valley Fire Relief Street Dance. A big shout of "THANKS" goes out to our Operations Staff and Legion and SAL volunteers.

Have a safe summer

Craig Hartman /Commander

The SAL is working on its second gun raffle. We have one under our belt and it was a nice profit maker. On June 22, the SAL set up a ticket sales booth at the Golden Valley Fire Street Dance. We sold about 50 tickets and also did some recruiting. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, they are 20\$ and, of course, your chances of winning are good. See an SAL member and get in this drawing the prizes are awesome. Thanks to Turk for picking out a good selection of guns and other prizes.

We also had a good showing of SAL members at the ceremony to retire old US Flags. It was an honor to be in the presence of WWII Veteran (Tom can you add his name please/) The ceremony was thoughtful and well done.

Your SAL is looking for new members - John Ernston is our membership coordinator and has redone our application form - its looking good . If you know someone that wants to join - send him our way.

Lastly, a hats-off thank you to Evan Komar for doing the leadership work of 3 men while he led the SAL. He is now our Sergeant at Arms. Evan, thanks for all you have done for the Post.

Respectfully,

Denny Arons
 SAL Commander

The Chester Bird Club (Operations) Leadership

Gaming Manager—Chris Reid

General Manager - Michael Turk
Operations Manager - Josh Mandel
Bar Manager—Randy Andrel

Head Chef/Kitchen Manager
 Marecelo Jaden

We are on the Web!

We are on the Web! Go to www.chesterbird.org to see the current newsletter and calendar.

For paper copies, pick them up at the Club.

Who says that you can't have your food and play for it too? Meat Raffle!

Wednesday at 5:30PM
Thursday at 6PM—Sunday at 3PM

Chester Bird American Legion Charitable Gambling Hours

Monday-Friday 11AM to 12 Midnight
Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight
Sunday 12PM to ?

Gambling License # A00991

OPEN MEETING POLICY

All current members are welcome to attend any board or committee meeting as an observer. Meetings conducted behind closed doors and any business conducted therein are not valid. Contact the Post Adjutant for more information on meetings and the policy.

Note: Contact Information has been removed so that the web version will not be inviting to SPAM search engines—please refer to the web-site

Legion Officers

Commander	Craig Hartman
1st Vice Commander	Mike Hrdlicka
2nd Vice Commander	Mark Kelm
Adjutant	Open
Finance Officer	Tom Martin
Chaplain	Mark Kelm
Sgt. At Arms	Dearest Welwolie
Historian	Open
Service Officer	Craig Hartman
Judge Advocate	Jim Murphy

Executive Board

Member-at Large	Steve Fossen
Member-at Large	Open
Member-at-Large	Larry Schnack

Auxiliary Officers

Unit President	Sherri Wicks
1st Vice President	Doris Rindahl
2nd Vice President	Jackie Kile
Treasurer	Leann Roehl
Secretary	Susan Trussell
Chaplain	Chris Henkels
Sgt. At Arms	Lynne Bunde
Historian	Open

Sons Of The American Legion Officers

Commander	Denny Arons
1st Vice Commander	John Erntson
2nd Vice Commander	Mike Turk
Adjutant	Open
Finance Officer	Michael Morris
Chaplain	Open
Sgt. At Arms	Evan Komar

The American Legion Riders

Director	Evan B. Komar
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